

Focus On

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
OCTOBER 2005

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More Green Spaces, More Fun Places

GRAND OPENING OF RIVERLAND PARK

Help Guide Your City

JOIN AN ADVISORY BOARD



A Message From Mayor Jim Naugle

A City Well Prepared for Major Storms



If a major hurricane strikes Fort Lauderdale, residents can rest assured that the City is well prepared to respond.

When a storm threatens, the City's Emergency Management Plan kicks into high gear. Each department carries out duties for the safety and protection of our citizens. Law enforcement; fire-rescue; emergency communications; public information; traffic control; utilities; damage assessment; search and rescue; debris clearing and other vital services are all represented and mobilized.

The City works directly with county, state and federal emergency managers to ensure that proper resources are available before, during and after a storm. These include access to health and medical services; mass and critical care; special needs; and distribution of food, water and provisions. In a mandatory evacuation of the barrier island, the City coordinates with Broward County to provide bus service to assist those who may not have transportation.

The City is well prepared to respond to a major storm

After the storm, within 72 hours, National Guard troops and military forces will be deployed if needed to facilitate air, ground and sea cover; protection of lives and property; security and reconnaissance. Federal emergency management teams will stockpile and distribute food, water, ice and medical supplies. Trained staff will assist with incident management; temporary housing and shelter; recovery and rebuilding; and funding assistance.

Non-profit organizations will work to reunite families; provide meals, clothing and shelter; home, school and job placement; and other essential services for children, adults and the elderly.

The City can also call upon its CERT Team, Citizens Volunteer Corps and community leaders. This partnership was seen in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In a matter of hours, the City organized more than 150 volunteers to distribute 10,000 bags of ice to residents in need.

Even with the best preparations, surviving a major hurricane ultimately depends on you - our citizens. That's why it is critical to have a plan. Know where you will go in an evacuation. Assemble a disaster supply kit. Prepare your property. Review your insurance coverage. Arrange for those with special needs. Make plans for your pets. Fill prescription medications and secure emergency cash.

Remember, the most important thing you can do to survive a major hurricane is prepare. Personal responsibility is a must.

If you have any questions or concerns about our Emergency Management Plan, please contact me at **954.828.5003** or **mayorjames@aol.com**.

2006 Budget Cuts Taxes

Largest Millage Decrease in 10 Years

The City Commission unanimously approved the 2006 fiscal-year budget.

The new budget provides the largest millage rate decline in more than 10 years. This unprecedented tax decrease is made possible by sound, conservative fiscal management and additional revenue that the City will receive from increasing property values.

Approximately one quarter of the City's tax revenue is generated from commercial development. This strong commercial tax base allows the City to reduce the tax burden on residential homestead properties.

Residential homestead properties receive a \$25,000 exemption on their assessed value. They are also protected by the "Save Our Homes" amendment. This policy limits the increase in assessed value to the lesser of three percent or the annual change in the consumer price index.

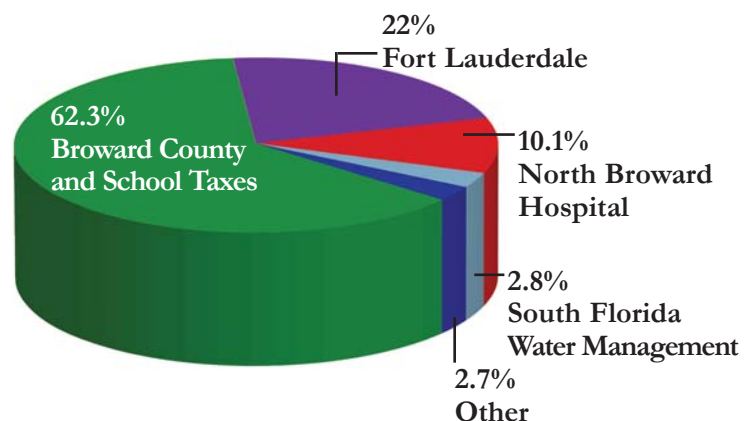
This year, the average homestead property will see a six percent decrease in their tax bill.

Highlights of the City's 2006 fiscal-year budget include:

- Hiring 13 additional police officers
- Adding 8 new firefighters
- Adding a new Fire-Rescue EMS unit
- Replenishing reserve funds
- Eliminating the insurance fund deficit

The City receives only 22 cents of every tax dollar you pay. The largest portion of your taxes goes to the Broward County School Board (33.7 percent) and Broward County (28.6 percent).

Breakdown of your tax bill:



For more information about the City's budget, visit **www.fortlauderdale.gov**.



Fire and Crime Prevention Weeks

Events to Focus on Public Safety

This month, the City of Fort Lauderdale will participate in two national events designed to educate and inform citizens about fire safety and crime prevention. National Fire Prevention Week and National Crime Prevention Week will both take place during October to raise awareness about safety issues.

Established by the National Fire Protection Association and the National Crime Prevention Council, both events have helped make our communities stronger, safer and better places to live, work and visit.

Building on the momentum of these national programs, the Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department will host Fire Prevention Week, October 9 - 15. The Fort Lauderdale Police Department has designated October 16 - 22 as Crime Prevention Week.



The Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department will follow the National Fire Prevention Week theme of "Use Candles With Care." Their educational outreach will focus on reminding citizens about the potential fire hazards associated with having lit candles in the home. Firefighters will also bring fire engines to local schools for hands-on presentations about the importance of fire prevention.

The Police Department will kick off Crime Prevention Week on Saturday, October 15 from 10 a.m. - noon at the Coral Ridge Mall, located at 3200 North Federal Highway. Officers will perform live demonstrations to raise awareness about steps you can take to prevent vehicle burglary. The Police Department will also conduct free bicycle registration and distribute child fingerprint identification kits and gun safety locks. The event will feature promotional items, recruiting information and tours of the Police Mobile Command Vehicle. The Citizens Volunteer Corps (CVC) will be on hand to pass out educational fliers and air fresheners.

From noon to 1:30 p.m., crime prevention hits the beach. The Police Department and the CVC will distribute vehicle burglary prevention materials to residents and visitors along Fort Lauderdale Beach in the vicinity of the South Beach Parking Lot.

For more information about fire and crime prevention events and activities, visit the City's website at www.fortlauderdale.gov.



More Green Spaces, More Fun Places

New Parks Designed By You

Riverland Park Grand Opening October 29

Join your friends and neighbors at the grand opening of the new Riverland Park. Hosted by the City's Parks and Recreation Department, the festivities will take place on Saturday, Oct. 29 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Riverland Park is located at S.W. 27th Avenue between S.W. 9th and 10th Streets.

Highlights will include: water playground activities, children's games, a trackless train, a disc jockey and light refreshments.

The 10-acre park was made possible by the City's Parks Bond Referendum. Its amenities reflect the public input obtained at community meetings and workshops. Features include: a community center, swimming pool, water playground, basketball courts, picnic pavilion, playground, and walking paths.

The City of Fort Lauderdale is pleased to announce updates on two additional parks:

Lincoln Park

Work is underway on the reconstruction of Lincoln Park, located at 600 N.W. 19th Avenue. The park's new design is based on recommendations made by area residents. Once complete, the park will feature basketball courts, a children's playground, picnic pavilion, walking /fitness trail, butterfly garden and new landscaping. Keep an eye out for grand opening festivities early in 2006.



Ann Herman Park

The Parks and Recreation Department is working with residents in the Chula Vista area to plan and design the new Ann Herman Park, located at 1754 S.W. 29th Avenue. The City acquired land for the park through the Broward County Land Preservation Bond. The park is named in memory of Ann Herman who is fondly remembered by residents as a surrogate mother for many of the community's children.

For more information about these and other parks, log on to the City's website at www.fortlauderdale.gov, or call 954.828.PARK (7275).

Parking Services Programs

Promote Safety and Convenience

Florida law requires that cities administer their own school crossing guard programs. In Fort Lauderdale, 80 percent of the school crossing guard program is funded by the City's Parking and Fleet Services Department. This initiative provides 70 crossing guards to staff street corners and intersections at 19 schools throughout the City to ensure that our children arrive safely.

In addition to safety, the Parking and Fleet Services Department is committed to making parking more convenient. The Pre-Paid Single Space Parking Meter Debit Card program has been expanded. The cards may now be used at single space meters throughout the City.

The Pre-Paid Single Space Parking Meter Debit Card may be purchased at the Parking and Fleet Services office, 290 N.E. Third Avenue, weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. For more information, please call **954.828.3700**.



Police Recruiting Goals Met

Extra \$200,000 Gets the Job Done

Thanks to an additional \$200,000 allocated by the City Manager, the Fort Lauderdale Police Department has met this year's hiring goals. The money was approved to fund initiatives to expedite the recruiting and hiring of additional City police officers.



The hiring targets were met largely because additional funding was allocated to launch an aggressive recruiting campaign. Given the success of the recruiting initiative, the department will implement similar strategies to expedite hiring for next year.

One of the key goals of the campaign is to obtain a diverse pool of applicants. As a result, print and broadcast ads will continue to run in publications and on radio and television stations that target minorities. The department will also continue to conduct outreach to community groups, including: African-Americans, Hispanics, women, gays and lesbians. To increase the number of local applicants, ads have appeared in prominent locations throughout South Florida, including Broward County Transit buses and electronic billboards. The department also participated in job fairs and conducted recruiting trips to schools and community functions to reach potential applicants on a national level.

If you are interested in joining the Police Department, log on to **www.flpd.org**, call **954.828.FLPD (3573)** or email a recruiter at **recruiter@fortlauderdale.gov**.

Fort Lauderdale Named Tree City USA

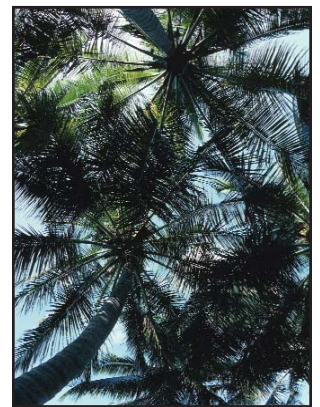
New Brochure for Tree Owners

For the 26th consecutive year, Fort Lauderdale has been honored with a Tree City USA award from the National Arbor Day Foundation. The award recognizes the City's commitment to urban forestry and dedication to expanding its tree canopy.



Since the early '70s, Fort Lauderdale's tree canopy has grown from covering only five percent of the City to almost 25 percent. The City's long-term goal is to achieve a tree canopy that covers 40 percent of the community. By planting approximately 1,200 trees a year and providing more than 500 trees to residents through the Adopt-A-Tree program, the City is well on its way to attaining that goal.

To promote smart growth of the City's tree canopy, the Fort Lauderdale Utility Advisory Committee recently completed a new brochure entitled "Fort Lauderdale Homeowners & Trees, Formula for a Winning Combination." The publication encourages homeowners to take responsibility for their trees.



Homeowners are provided with tips on planting the right tree in the right place; selecting the appropriate species of tree to plant; and planting trees at the proper distance from utility lines. By following the guidelines outlined in the brochure, residents can have beautiful trees that do not hinder electric, telephone or cable service.

Keep an eye out for the new brochure in your water bill.

Help Guide Our City

Volunteers Needed for Advisory Boards

Make a difference in your community. Join one of the City's 34 Citizens Advisory Boards. Residents who serve have an opportunity to provide advice and recommendations to the City Commission on a wide range of issues. From aviation and redevelopment, to education and planning and zoning, there is an area to suit everyone's interest.

***Make a
difference
in your
community***

The boards consist of a diverse group of business and community leaders who volunteer their time to help guide the City's future. Terms are for one year and boards generally meet once a month.

Applications and descriptions of each Advisory Board are available on the City's website at **www.fortlauderdale.gov**. For more information, call the City Clerk's Office at **954.828.5002**.

Preventing Identity Theft

Thieves Target Cars for Personal Data

Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in the world, affecting more than 10 million people each year. All a thief needs is a Social Security number, credit card, ATM card number, or personal check to steal a person's identity and ruin their credit.

Identify theft is a crime of opportunity. Criminals look for situations where they can steal personal data with little effort or risk. One of the most common ways of gaining access to personal information is through auto break-ins.

This disturbing crime trend is on the rise. Thieves are targeting cars at an alarming rate because they present easy opportunities, particularly when valuables such as purses, wallets, cell phones and laptop computers are left in plain sight.



As citizens, it is our responsibility to take the necessary precautions to protect our property and identity. By removing ATM receipts, bank statements, credit cards and other personal information from our vehicles, we can help prevent burglaries and avoid being the next victim.

Follow these simple steps to protect yourself from vehicle burglary and identity theft:

- Take valuables from your vehicle when you park, including: wallets, purses, store purchases, cell phones, laptops or any other item of value.
- Be alert at gas stations and convenience stores. Never leave a running or unlocked car unattended even for a moment!
- Do not leave bank statements, ATM cards, blank checks or credit cards in your vehicle.
- Do not leave your driver's license or vehicle registration in your automobile.
- Park only in well-lit areas of parking lots and check the area around you before leaving your vehicle.
- Remember to take your keys, lock your doors and set the car alarm.

It's your identity - do all you can to protect it!

"ICE" Your Cell Phone

New Program Helps Save Lives

ICE. Three simple letters that could help save your life. That's the message of a new campaign that encourages people to put an entry in their cell phone address book using the prefix ICE -- for "In Case of Emergency."

The entry, such as "ICE - Bob," enables emergency responders to quickly reach a relative, friend or next of kin who can provide crucial personal and medical information. When seconds count, this information could mean the difference between life and death for critically ill patients.

The ICE initiative was launched in April by British paramedic Bob Brothie. The program gained global attention after the July terrorist bombings in London. Now, emergency personnel worldwide are embracing the program as a way to enhance medical services and help save lives.

The Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department has joined this effort by adopting ICE as part of its emergency operation procedures. When paramedics and firefighters respond to a call, they now check incapacitated victims' cell phones for ICE contacts.



Take a few minutes and program your cell phone with an ICE entry. It could be the most important call you never have to make.

Recycling Saves Money

New Containers on the Beach

New underground recycling and trash containers have arrived in Fort Lauderdale. The unique storage bins are buried five feet underground and hold about six yards of recyclables or trash.

Known as Alfa Underground Containers, the receptacles allow collected materials to be stored underground for several weeks, which significantly reduces operation and collection costs for the City. The containers are odor-proof, which minimizes the attraction of insects and are inaccessible to rodents, which will keep the surrounding areas litter-free.



The new containers come in groups of three: one for recyclable mixed paper; one for commingled plastic or glass bottles, cans and drink cartons; and one for trash. The clusters are located at Las Olas and A1A and near the South Beach overpass.

The Alfa Underground Containers will also be used at Fire-Rescue Station #13 located at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park. Using these containers will eliminate the need for a dumpster enclosure and will reduce hauling costs. The containers are expected to save the City more than \$10,000.

Stay Safe This Halloween

Police Department Tips

- Organize a “trick or treating” route with neighbors you know.
- Go “trick or treating” with your children, or make sure they are with a responsible adult.
- Cross streets only at corners and wear reflective costumes and clothing.
- “Trick or treat” when it is light out. Bring a flashlight if you will be out in the dark.
- Remind kids never to go inside a strange house or car.
- Do not allow children to eat candy until they get home. Once there, check all of your child’s candy carefully and discard any without original wrapping. Toss out any fruit or homemade items.
- Consider hosting a Halloween Party for your little “ghouls” and their friends.



Calendar of Events

For the Month of October

October 9-15

Fire Prevention Week

October 11

7:30 p.m.

Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations Meeting
8th Floor, City Hall

October 15

Crime Prevention Week Kickoff Events

9:30 a.m.

South Beach Parking Lot - 700 Seabreeze Blvd.

10:00 a.m.

Coral Ridge Mall - 3200 N. Federal Highway

October 16-22

Crime Prevention Week

October 18

1:30 p.m.

City Commission Conference Meeting

6:00 p.m.

City Commission Regular Meeting

October 29

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Riverland Park Grand Opening

City Commission

Jim Naugle, Mayor

Christine Teel, Vice Mayor - District I

Dean J. Trantalis, Commissioner - District II

Carlton B. Moore, Commissioner - District III

Cindi Hutchinson, Commissioner - District IV

Happy Halloween!

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
PUBLIC INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
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CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

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Si desea copias en español de esta información, sírvase llamar al teléfono 954.828.4746.

Poun mande kopi enfòmasyon sa yo an kreyòl, telefòn 954.828.4746.